BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2007-130
SHERLYNN J. L. BARTELS-SCHERER P.O. Box 713195 Santee, CA 92072	OAH No. L-2007020360
Registered Nursing License No. 583969	
Respondent.	

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective	on JUNE 14, 2008
It is so ORDERED MAY 18, 21	00B

FOR THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General				
2	of the State of California LINDA K. SCHNEIDER				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General				
	RITA M. LANE, State Bar No. 171352 Deputy Attorney General				
4	California Department of Justice 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100				
5	San Diego, CA 92101				
6	P.O. Box 85266				
7	San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2614				
8	Facsimile: (619) 645-2061				
9	Attorneys for Complainant				
10	BEFORE 1				
11	BOARD OF REGISTE DEPARTMENT OF CON	SUMER AFFAIRS			
12	STATE OF CAL	IFORNIA			
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2007-130			
14	SHERLYNN J. L. BARTELS-SCHERER	OAH No. L-2007020360			
15	P.O. Box 713195 Santee, CA 92072	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND			
16	Registered Nursing License No. 583969	DISCIPLINARY ORDER			
17	Respondent.				
18		l.			
19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND	AGREED by and between the parties to the			
20	above-entitled proceedings that the following matter	s are true:			
21	PARTIES				
22	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H, R.N	(Complainant) is the Executive Officer of			
23	the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is				
24	represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr.,	Attorney General of the State of California,			
25	by Rita M. Lane, Deputy Attorney General.				
26	2. Respondent Sherlynn J. L. Ba	rtels-Scherer (Respondent) is represented in			
27	this proceeding by attorney Charles Quirk, whose address is 12526 High Bluff Drive, Suite 300				
28	San Diego, CA 92130.				

3. On or about July 25, 2001, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nursing License No. 583969 to Respondent. The Nursing License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 2007-130 and will expire on August 31, 2009, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 2007-130 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on November 21, 2006. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 2007-130 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2007-130. Respondent has also carefully read, discussed with counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 2007-130.

9. Respondent agrees that her Registered Nursing License is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

OTHER MATTERS

11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nursing License No. 583969 issued to Respondent Sherlynn J. L. Bartels-Scherer is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

Severability Clause. Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other

applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

2. Comply with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

- 3. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.
- 4. **Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State.** Periods of residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when she resides outside of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where she has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if she applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

5. Submit Written Reports. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which she has a registered nurse license.

6. **Function as a Registered Nurse.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

7. **Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to her employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

8. **Supervision.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Maximum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.
- (b) Moderate The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.

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- (c) Minimum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-to-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.
- (d) Home Health Care If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.
- 9. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required.

Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses. The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

10. **Complete a Nursing Course(s).** Respondent, at her own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six months prior to the end of her probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

11. **Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of \$4,470. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months prior to the end of the probation term.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation will apply.

12. **Violation of Probation.** If Respondent violates the conditions of her probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation) of Respondent's license.

If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

13. **License Surrender.** During Respondent's term of probation, if she ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of

probation, Respondent may surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

- (1) Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any reason other than a mental or physical illness; or
 - (2) One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness.
- 14. **Mental Health Examination.** The Respondent shall, within 45 days of the effective date of this decision, have a mental health examination including psychological testing as appropriate to determine her capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. The examination will be performed by a psychiatrist, psychologist or other licensed mental health practitioner approved by the Board. The examining mental health practitioner will submit a written report of that assessment and recommendations to the Board. All costs are the responsibility of the Respondent. Recommendations for treatment, therapy or counseling made as a result of the mental health examination will be instituted and followed by the Respondent.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed mental health care practitioner making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease practice and may not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required, until the Board has notified respondent that a mental health determination permits

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respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If the Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant, documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts by the Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided. Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

Therapy or Counseling Program. Respondent, at her expense, shall 15. participate in an on-going counseling program until such time as the Board releases her from this requirement and only upon the recommendation of the counselor. Written progress reports from the counselor will be required at various intervals.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Charles Quirk. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nursing License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.

DATED: 3-24-08

SHERLYNNU.

Respondent

- 1	
1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Sherlynn J. L. Bartels-Scherer
2	the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and
3	Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.
4	DATED: 3/27/08
5	CHARLES QUIRK
6	Attorney for Respondent
7	
8	ENDORSEMENT
9	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfull
10	submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer
11	Affairs.
12	DATED: 4-15-08
13	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California
14 15	LINDA K. SCHNEIDER Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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17	hola M. Mane
18	RITA M. LANE Deputy Attorney General
19	Attorneys for Complainant
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27	DOJ Matter ID: SD2006800103
28	80216966.wpd

Exhibit A
Accusation No. 2007-130

1	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General				
2	of the State of California MARGARET A. LAFKO Load Synamicing Domyty Attorney General				
3	Lead Supervising Deputy Attorney General RITA M. LANE, State Bar No. 171352				
4	Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice				
5	110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101				
6	P.O. Box 85266				
7	San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2614 English (619) 645-2061				
8	Facsimile: (619) 645-2061 Attorneys for Complainant				
9	Attorneys for Complainant				
10	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING				
11	DOARD OF REGISTE DEPARTMENT OF CON STATE OF CAL	ISUMER AFFAIRS			
12	STATE OF CAL	MORNA			
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2007 - 130			
14	14 SHERLYNN J.L. BARTELS-SCHERER A C C U S A T I O N 11322 Brockway Street				
15	El Cajon, CA 92021				
16	Registered Nursing License No. 583969				
17	Respondent.				
18					
19	Complainant alleges:				
20	<u>PARTIE</u>	<u>S</u>			
21	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N.	. (Complainant) brings this Accusation			
22	solely in her official capacity as the Executive Office	er of the Board of Registered Nursing,			
23	Department of Consumer Affairs.				
24	2. On or about July 25, 2001, the	Board of Registered Nursing issued			
25	Registered Nursing Number 583969 to Sherlynn J. L	. Bartels-Scherer (Respondent). The			
26	Registered Nursing License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges				
27	brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2007, u	inless renewed.			
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JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 118, subdivision (b), of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") provides that the suspension, expiration, surrender or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.
- 5. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

6. Section 490 of the Code states:

A board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

7. Section 493 of the Code states:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in a proceeding conducted by a board within the department pursuant to law to deny an application for a license or to suspend or revoke a license or otherwise take disciplinary action against a person who holds a license, upon the ground that the applicant or the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of the licensee in question, the record of conviction of the crime shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred, but only of that fact, and the board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of the licensee in question.

As used in this section, "license" includes "certificate," "permit," "authority," and "registration."

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	b.	On or about January 19, 2005, Respondent was sentenced to the
custody of the	Sheriff	for 180 days and placed on formal probation for 3 years with terms
and conditions	includi	ng: participate in work furlough program; pay a fine of \$239.00;
pay a restitutio	n fee of	f \$200.00; and obey all laws and ordinances.

c. The facts and circumstances surrounding this offense are that on or about January 30, 2004, San Diego Sheriff's investigators received a call from a Child Protective Services Worker concerning a case of physical abuse on J.S., an eight-year-old boy. J.S. was repeatedly spanked across his buttocks, by Respondent, his step-mother, with a 2 ½ foot long PVC pipe as a means to punish him. Respondent has hit J.S. with a PVC pipe since J.S. was four years old. As a result of Respondent repeatedly hitting J.S. with a PVC pipe, J.S. has been left with a permanent horizontal indentation over both buttocks surrounded by a hard lumpy mass.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of a Crime Substantially Related to the Duties of a Registered Nurse)

13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 490 and 2761(a) and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444 on the grounds of unprofessional conduct as defined in section 2761(f) of that Code in that Respondent was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a registered nurse as set forth in paragraph 12 above, which is realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under section 2761(a) in that she inflicted corporal punishment and injury to a child as set forth above in paragraph 12 above, which is realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

PRAYER 1 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein 2 alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision: 3 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nursing Number 583969, issued to 4 Sherlynn J. L. Bartels-Scherer. 5 6 2. Ordering Sherlynn J. L. Bartels-Scherer to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to 7 Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and 8 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. 9 10 DATED: 11/2/06 11 12 13 RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N. 14 **Executive Officer** Board of Registered Nursing 15 Department of Consumer Affairs State of California 16 Complainant 17 18 19 20 21 SD2006800103 80093854.wpd 22 23 24 25 26

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